

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /174 W

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P 011719Z FEB 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 176

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 2900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 39TH PLENARY SESSION,

FEBRUARY 1, 1974

1. SUMMARY. THE TALKS REMAINED AT AN IMPASSE OVER THE GVN PROPOSAL TO HOLD ELECTIONS JULY 20. VIEN (GVN) MERELY REITERATED THE PROPOSAL, WHILE THI (PRG) MADE A LENGTHY, DEFENSIVE STATEMENT ATTEMPTING TO ASSERT THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF HOLDING GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF FUNDAMENTAL GVN POLICY CHANGES. THI ALSO REINTRODUCED THE SIX-POINT PRG PLAN OF LAST APRIL 25 WHICH HAS GONE UNMENTIONED FOR MONTHS. AT THE SAME TIME THI CALLED FOR SATISFACTION OF THE FAMILIAR THREE PRG PRECONDITIONS - CEASEFIRE, PRISONER RELEASE, AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS. THI MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS AS ALLEGED PROOF OF CONTINUING US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN SVN. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE FEBRUARY 8. END SUMMARY.

2. GVN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VIEN, SPEAKING FIRST, REITERATED THE PROPOSAL OF JANUARY 18 FOR A PROCESSPEADING TO GENERAL ELECTIONS ON JULY 20. VIEN URGED ANEW THAT THE  
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PRG ACCEPT A PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR POLITICAL EVOLUTION,

TO INCLUDE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD (NCNRC) ON APRIL 19, BEGINNING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE LATTER HALF OF MAY, ETC. VIEN CONCLUDED HIS EXCEPTIONALLY BRIEF STATEMENT BY CHALLENGING THE PRG TO SUGGEST A NEW MEANS OF NEGOTIATION, SINCE THE PRESENT CONFERENCE REVEALED ONLY THE "STERILE NATURE OF OUR MEETINGS", OCCASIONED BY PRG EXPLOITATION OF THE TALKS FOR PROPAGANDISTIC ENDS.

3. "AMBASSADOR" THI, ACTING CHIEF, PRGDEL, WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE US AND GVN FOR ALLEGEDLY HAVING CONDUCTED A YEAR OF "SABOTAGE" OF THE AGREEMENT. THI INCLUDED AN ALLUSION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS AS ALLEGED EVIDENCE OF US INTENT TO CONTINUE MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN SVN.

4. MOST OF THI'S PREPARED REMARKS CONSTITUTED A LENGTHY RESPONSE TO THE GVN ELECTION PROPOSAL. IN ATTEMPTING TO DEFEND THE PRG AS THE ALLEGED ADVOCATE OF "GENUINELY FREE, DEMOCRATIC GENERAL ELECTIONS" THI HARKENED BACK TO THE SIX-POINT PRG PLAN OF APRIL 25 (USDEL JEC 11449, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT "CLARIFICATION" OF JUNE 28 (USDEL JEC 17915). (IN BRIEF, THE PLAN HAD CALLED FOR MEASURES TO INSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE, DELINEATION OF RESPECTIVE ZONES, AND COMMANDERS' MEETINGS, FOLLOWED BY A VAGUELY-WORDED ELECTORAL PROCESS; THE "CLARIFICATION" PRESCRIBED A 36-MEMBER NCNRC, HEADED BY A SIX-MEMBER PRESIDUM, WITH BROAD POWERS TO MONITOR THE CEASEFORE AND ACCORDINGLY SET IN TRAIN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS). THROUGH THE DEVICE OF A RHETORICAL QUESTION THI MAINTAINED THAT VALID ELECTIONS WERE IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG AS THE USUAL THREE PRG PRECONDITIONS WERE UNMET AND UNTIL THE GVN "ACKNOWLEDGED" THE "THIRD FORCE" SO AS TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NCNRC.

5. SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS WAS INCONSEQUENTIAL. THEY AGREED TO MEET AGAIN FEBRUARY 8. MOSSLER

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## Message Attributes

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